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Approved For Release 2002/11/14 : CIA-RDP89B00569R000700160066-9

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4 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Comments on Field Analysis of
Mission 3236, Flown on 30 October 1963

1. This mission covered the Tibetan side of the Sino-Indian border from central NEFA west to the western end of Nepal. The photography was for the most part cloud-free, but interpretation was limited in some areas due to obliquity, haze, and ground shadow.

2. Very little military activity was noted. Photography of two major military complexes in Tibet--Gyangtse and Linchih--revealed no significant changes from previous coverage dating back to [REDACTED] Permanent military facilities continue to be constructed at most of the small Chinese military camps located in the forward areas of the Sino-Indian border.

3. Improvements in the logistical capability are in evidence. A large, 300 foot road bridge is under construction in eastern Tibet on the major east-west land route connecting Tibet with neighboring Szechuan Province.

Mission [REDACTED] revealed a similar bridge under construction in central Tibet on the other primary truck route into Tibet from Tsinghai Province. These bridges are designed to span mountain rivers which frequently flood out existing fords during the spring and summer thaws.

4. The Chinese are also pushing ahead on construction of the Lhasa to Katmandu (Nepal) highway. This project, first agreed to in late 1961, involves the expansion and improvement of an existing road between Tibet and Katmandu to a double lane highway. The current mission disclosed a total of 260 tents at a probable construction camp in the Nyalam Dzong area just north of the Nepalese border town of Kodari. Communications Intelligence has disclosed that several army engineer units and security forces have moved into this area over the past year. NPIC has been asked to survey this construction program to determine its scope and progress.

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